

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Governor Nikki Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The City of Tega Cay wrote to you on September 20, 2013, asking for your intervention in the ongoing sewage spills into Lake Wylie and the Tega Cay community. I am writing to you today to second that request and to echo their concerns. Carolina Water Services ("CWS"), a subsidiary of Utilities, Inc., defines everything that is wrong with our water/sewage systems and we need your help in order to break free from this entity.

I represent District 1 in York County, which encompasses Tega Cay and much of Lake Wylie. My district is not alone in being affected by CWS' woeful practices. Three distinct County Council Districts touch Lake Wylie and almost all of the citizens of this County drink water that is drawn from this river basin. Since 2011 CWS has documented over 50 sanitary sewer overflows into Lake Wylie. During this same time the Public Service Commission has granted a 66% increase in sewer rates, a 57% increase to their monthly base rate and a 21% increase in the distribution and supply rates to CWS. In response to these massive increases, Tega Cay has seen no improvement in service and in fact has recently seen a spill of 150,000 gallons of raw and partially treated sewage in to Lake Wylie.

In an attempt to quantify how much 150,000 gallons is I did some research. This is the equivalent of allowing 15 large tanker trucks, which we often see driving on the interstate hauling fuel, pull up to the shores of Lake Wylie and dump sewage. The response to this spill was typical, absolutely nothing happened. At least until Labor Day Weekend when another 1,000 gallon sewage spill happened.

On that particular weekend CWS states that they placed "No Swimming" signs and had employees tell people to move away from the area. After talking with citizens in the affected area, that is simply not true. It is true that two small signs were placed near the actual spill site, however no one swimming in the lake on a holiday weekend knew about the spill until they were approached by members of the media. In her response to Tega Cay's letter, Utilities, Inc. CEO Lisa Sparrow states that "Safety is our absolute Number One priority." Based on fifty plus spills, thousands of gallons of raw sewage dumped in to our lake, and the continuing fight to stop this from happening, I highly question her statement.


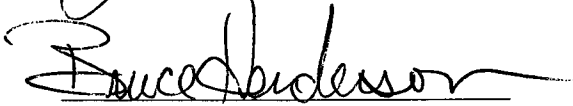

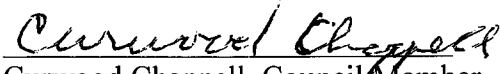
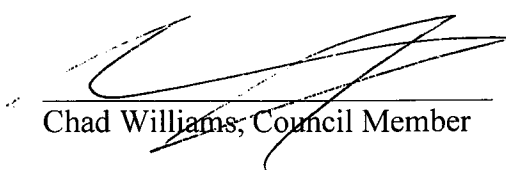
As someone who lives on Lake Wylie and is frequently on the lake it is evident that the system has failed. DHEC and ORS have failed to protect the citizens of Tega Cay and York County. The system

has failed. Our only option is to seek your help.

At this time we are requesting that you take immediate steps against CWS and require that this system either be fixed or surrender the system to the City of Tega Cay so that this destructive cycle can be brought to an end. How many more gallons of raw sewage have to contaminate our primary source of drinking water before the State takes action? CWS has not been held accountable for their actions. I request that you hold them accountable and give the City of Tega Cay the relief they are requesting.

I have been joined in this request by each of my fellow councilmen. Our entire Council realizes the importance of Lake Wylie, not only as a source of drinking water, but for tourism and recreation as well. It is a "Great Day in South Carolina" and especially in York County. Unfortunately, on any given day in Tega Cay, inaction has allowed CWS to dump raw sewage in to our lake. Help us end this, help us hold CWS and Utilities, Inc. accountable for their actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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R. Michael Johnson, Jr., Council Member  
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Dr. J. Britt Blackwell, Chair  
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Joe Cox, Vice-Chair  
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Bruce Henderson, Council Member  
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William Roddey, Council Member  
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Curwood Chappell, Council Member  
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Chad Williams, Council Member

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cc: Tega Cay City Council  
Catherine Templeton, SCDHEC  
Chairman G. O'Neal Hamilton, PSC